

**PRESS RELEASE
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September 22, 2006

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DHHS Identifies EEE Positive Mosquito Pool In Newmarket, Hudson, Hampstead And East Kingston; EEE Positive Bird In Windham; West Nile Positive Bird in Danville

Concord, NH – The NH Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) today announced 11 positive tests for eastern equine encephalitis (EEE) in a mosquito pools found in Newmarket, Hudson, Hampstead And East Kingston. Five mosquito pools tested positive in East Kingston, four in Hampstead and one each in Newmarket and Hudson. This brings to 38 the number of mosquito pools to test positive for EEE in the State so far this year. A bird from Windham also tested positive for the disease, the third bird to do so this year.

Additionally, the State Public Health Laboratory also identified a bird that tested positive for West Nile virus (WNV) in Danville. This is the 16th bird to test positive for West Nile Virus this year.

“While we are getting late into the season and mosquito activity is dropping, these large number of positive tests should let everyone know that there is still a significant risk in Southern New Hampshire for EEE and West Nile virus,” said John Stephen, DHHS Commissioner. “So even though we are getting close to the end of the season, I strongly urge that everyone should remain aware of the threat that remains. People should continue to take personal precautions to prevent this disease, including wearing an effective mosquito repellent when outdoors and draining standing water from around their houses and neighborhoods.”

DHHS has a toll-free Hotline for EEE/West Nile virus at 1-866-273-6453. Anyone with questions can call from 8 AM to 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday, for information about these viruses. Considerable resources about EEE and West Nile virus, including fact sheets, are available on the DHHS website (www.dhhs.nh.gov).

“Most of the State will see a killing frost by early October, which will end the threat of EEE and West Nile virus,” added Stephen, “However, everyone should continue to avoid being bitten by mosquitoes, since they are still active and are still capable of transmitting these diseases. There is a great deal to enjoy about New Hampshire in the fall, but please take simple preventive step to protect your health and safety.”

Prevention Guidelines for West Nile Virus and Eastern Equine Encephalitis NH Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health Services

1. Eliminate standing water and other mosquito breeding locations.

In warm weather, mosquitoes can breed in any puddle that lasts more than 4 days!

- Remove old tires from your property.
- Dispose of tin cans, plastic containers, ceramic pots, or other containers. Don't overlook containers that have become overgrown by aquatic vegetation.
- Drill holes in the bottom of recycling containers that are left outside.
- Make sure roof gutters are clean and draining properly.
- Clean and chlorinate swimming pools and hot tubs. If not in use, keep empty and covered and keep covers free of standing water.
- Aerate garden ponds or stock them with fish.
- Turn over wheelbarrows and change water in birdbaths at least twice weekly.
- Turn over plastic wading pools when not in use.
- Remind or help neighbors to eliminate breeding sites on their properties.

2. Be aware of where mosquitoes live and breed and keep them from entering your home.
 - Mosquitoes lay their eggs in standing water. Weeds, tall grass, and bushes provide an outdoor home for the adult *Culex pipiens* mosquito (the common northern house mosquito), which is most commonly associated with West Nile virus.
 - Mosquitoes can enter homes through unscreened windows or doors, or broken screens. Make sure that doors and windows have tight-fitting screens. Repair or replace all screens in your home that have tears or holes.
 - Resting mosquitoes can often be flushed from indoor resting sites by using sweeping motions under beds, behind bedside tables etc. and once in flight, exterminated prior to sleeping at night.
3. Protect yourself from mosquito bites.
 - If outside during evening, nighttime, and dawn hours when mosquitoes are most active and likely to bite, children and adults should wear protective clothing such as long pants, long-sleeved shirts, and socks.
 - Consider the use of an effective insect repellent, such as one containing DEET. A repellent containing 30% or less DEET (N,N-diethyl-methyl-meta-toluamide) for children and adults. Use DEET according to the manufacturer's directions. Children should not apply DEET to themselves. Repellents that contain Picaridin or oil of lemon eucalyptus have also been determined to be effective.
 - Vitamin B, ultrasonic devices, incense, and bug zappers have not been shown to be effective in preventing mosquito bites.

For more information on West Nile Virus, call the NH Department of Health and Human Services toll-free West Nile Virus Information Line at 866-273-NILE (6543), or visit the West Nile Virus Website at www.dhhs.nh.gov.